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February 25, 2015

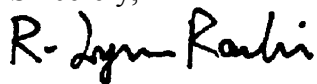
To Members of the Appropriations Committee:

It came to my attention recently that Governor Malloy has recommended that the \$50,000 line item to support the Litchfield Jazz Festival, awarded through DECD in 2014, be cut. I hope that my letter will be part of a groundswell of support for the festival urging you not to cut or reduce this funding.

For 20 years, the Litchfield Jazz Festival and the associated, month-long Litchfield Jazz Camp educational program have been a feather in the cap of the state of Connecticut. Bostonians feel that we have a decent jazz scene, both on the performing and educational fronts, yet the Litchfield Jazz Festival always draws the attention of me, my wife and many other jazz aficionados to Connecticut each August. I would imagine that the festival brings a fair amount of tourism business to your state and that should definitely be a consideration, but it's critical that we realize the importance of supporting America's music by providing funding for a gem like the Litchfield Jazz Festival. This festival makes Connecticut special!

I exhort you to keep the DECD line item in place to support the Litchfield Jazz Festival.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Lynn Rardin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

R. Lynn Rardin, Ph.D.